



## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# News Release

*Pacific Islands External Affairs Office*

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## **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Updates List of Endangered Species Candidates**

### *Hawaii Leads Nation in Number of Candidate Species*

Hawaii is often referred to as the “endangered species capital of the world,” and not surprisingly it also leads the nation in the number of plant and animal species proposed as candidates for listing as endangered or threatened. An updated list of 286 native plant and animal species that are candidates for listing under the Endangered Species Act was published in the *Federal Register* on May 11. Hawaii leads the nation with the greatest number of candidates on the list at 107 species. An additional 12 candidate species are from other Pacific Islands.

Although no new candidate species were added to the list from Hawaii or the Pacific, the listing priority for several species was raised due to imminent threats. One Pacific island species, the Mariana fruit bat, was removed from the candidate list because it was listed as threatened throughout its range last January.

The Candidate Notice of Review includes Service findings on resubmitted petitions and describes the progress in revising the lists of endangered and threatened wildlife and plants. The purpose of the document is to inform interested parties of the status of candidate species, and to solicit new information on the status of candidate species and threats to their survival. Information needed to assist Service biologists in determining whether a species warrants listing comes from a variety of sources ranging from private, university, and government scientists to state and federal land managers and private citizens.

In addition, the Notice informs the public about species the Service is considering proposing for protection. This notice includes 21 animal species that have already been proposed for addition to the list of endangered and threatened wildlife and plants, but for which a final listing determination has not been made. This includes 12 species of Hawaiian picture wing flies that were proposed for endangered species status in 2001. Further action on finalizing the picture wing listing has been delayed due to lack of funding to complete the rule.

A candidate species is one for which the Service has a sufficient amount of information on biological vulnerability and threats to support a proposal to list as endangered or threatened, but for which preparation and publication of a proposal is precluded by higher priority listing actions. Candidate species are assigned a listing priority number of 1-12 depending on the magnitude of threats, the imminence of threats, and by their taxonomic status.

For those candidate species in which the listing priority number has changed, the majority of the species were elevated in priority status. These changes can be attributed to the increase in the imminent threats these species face such as habitat destruction and predation caused by invasive species.

### Candidate Species –Pacific Islands

#### Mammals (2)

Priority	Common Name	Scientific Name	Historic Range
3	Bat, Pacific sheath-tailed	<i>Emballonura semicaudata rotensis</i>	Guam and CNMI <sup>1</sup>
3	Bat, Pacific sheath-tailed	<i>Emballonura semicaudata semicaudata</i>	Guam and CNMI

#### Birds (5)

Priority	Common Name	Scientific Name	Historic Range
3	Spotless Crake	<i>Porzana tabuensis</i>	American Samoa, Australia, Fiji, Independent Samoa, Marquesas, Philippines, Society Islands, Tonga
2	Kauai Creeper	<i>Oreomystis bairdi</i>	Hawaii
12	Many-colored fruit-dove	<i>Ptilinopus perousii perousii</i>	American Samoa, Independent Samoa
6	Friendly Ground-dove	<i>Gallicolumba stairi stairi</i>	American Samoa, Independent Samoa
3	Band-rumped storm petrel	<i>Oceanodroma castro</i>	Hawaii

#### Snails (9)

Priority	Common Name	Scientific Name	Historic Range
2	Fragile tree snail	<i>Samoana fragilis</i>	Guam and CNMI
2	Guam tree snail	<i>Partula radiolata</i>	Guam
2	Humped tree snail	<i>Partula gibba</i>	Guam and CNMI
2	Lanai tree snail	<i>Partulina semicarinata</i>	Hawaii
2	Lanai tree snail	<i>Partulina variabilis</i>	Hawaii
2	Newcomb's tree snail	<i>Newcombia cumingi</i>	Hawaii
	Langford's tree snail	<i>Partula langfordi</i>	Guam and CNMI
2	Tutuila tree snail	<i>Eua zebrina</i>	American Samoa
2	Sisi snail	<i>Ostodes strigatus</i>	American Samoa

#### Insects (24)

Priority	Common Name	Scientific Name	Historic Range
2	Wekiu bug	<i>Nysius wekiuicola</i>	Hawaii
3	Mariana eight-spot butterfly	<i>Hypolimnas octocula mariannensis</i>	Guam and CNMI
2	Mariana wandering butterfly	<i>Vagrans egestina</i>	Guam and CNMI
Varies by species from 2 - 9	Hawaiian damselflies (6)	<i>Megalagrion spp</i>	Hawaii
5	Poolanui Gall Fly	<i>Phaeogramma sp.</i>	Hawaii
2	Picture wing flies (14)	<i>Drosophila spp.</i>	Hawaii

<sup>1</sup> CNMI = Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

### Crustaceans (6)

Priority	Common Name	Scientific Name	Historic Range
2	Anchialine pool shrimp	<i>Antecaridina lauensis</i>	Hawaii, Mozambique, Saudi Arabia, Japan
2		<i>Calliasmata pholidota</i>	Hawaii, Funafuti Atoll, Saudi Arabia, Sinai Peninsula, Tuvalu
2		<i>Metabetaeus lohena</i>	Hawaii
2		<i>Palaemonella burnsi</i>	Hawaii
2		<i>Procaris hawaiana</i>	Hawaii
1		<i>Vetericaris chaceorum</i>	Hawaii

### Ferns and Allies (4)

Priority	Common Name	Scientific Name	Historic Range
2	No common name	<i>Christella bodiae</i> (= <i>Cyclosorus boydiae</i> var. <i>boydiae</i> = <i>Cyclosorus boydiae kipahuluensis</i> )	Hawaii
2	No common name	<i>Doryopteris takeuchii</i>	Guam and CNMI
2	Wawaeiole	<i>Huperzia</i> (= <i>Phlegmariurus stemmermanniae</i> )	Guam and CNMI
3	Palapali	<i>Microlepia strigosa</i> var. <i>mauiensis</i> (= <i>Microlepia mauiensis</i> )	Hawaii

### Flowering Plants (81)

Priority	Common Name	Scientific Name	Historic Range
2	Pa`iniu	<i>Astelia waialealae</i>	Hawaii
Varies by species from 2 - 8	Ko`oko`olau (5)	<i>Bidens</i> spp.	Hawaii
2	No common name (2)	<i>Calamagrostis</i> spp.	Hawaii
2	`Awikiwiki (2)	<i>Canavalia</i> spp.	Hawaii
Varies by species from 2 - 3	`Akoko (3)	<i>Chamaesyce</i> spp.	Hawaii
2	Papala	<i>Charpentiera densiflora</i>	Hawaii
2	Haha (7)	<i>Cyanea</i> spp.	Hawaii
2	Aku	<i>Cyanea tritomantha</i>	Hawaii
2	Ha`iwale (5)	<i>Cyrtandra</i> spp.	Hawaii
Varies by species from 2 - 3	Na`ena`e (3)	<i>Dubautia</i> spp.	Hawaii
2	No common name	<i>Festuca hawaiiensis</i>	Hawaii
2	Nanu	<i>Gardenia remyi</i>	Hawaii
Varies by species from 2 - 8	Nohoanu (3)	<i>Geranium</i> spp.	Hawaii
2	Kampua`a	<i>Hedyotis fluviatilis</i>	Hawaii
3	`Ohe	<i>Joinvillea ascendens ascendens</i>	Hawaii
2	No common name (2)	<i>Keysseria</i> (= <i>Lagenifera</i> ) spp.	Hawaii
2	Hulumoa	<i>Korthalsella degeneri</i>	Hawaii
2	Kamakahala (2)	<i>Labordia</i> spp.	Hawaii
2	Lehua makanoe	<i>Lysimachia daphnoides</i>	Hawaii
2	Alani (6)	<i>Melicope</i> spp.	Hawaii
2	Kolea (3)	<i>Myrsine</i> spp.	Hawaii
2	`Aiea	<i>Nothocestrum latifolium</i>	Hawaii
2	Holei	<i>Ochrosia haleakalae</i>	Hawaii
2	`Ala `ala wai nui	<i>Peperomia subpetiolata</i>	Hawaii

2	No common name (3)	<i>Phyllostegia spp.</i>	Hawaii
2	Ho`awa	<i>Pittosporum napaliense</i>	Hawaii
Varies by species from 2 - 3	No common name (3)	<i>Platydesma spp.</i>	Hawaii
2	Pilo kea lau li`i	<i>Platydesma rostrata</i>	Hawaii
2	Hala pepe (2)	<i>Pleomele spp.</i>	Hawaii
2	Lo`ulu	<i>Pritchardia hardyi</i>	Hawaii
3	`Ena`ena	<i>Pseudognaphalium (=Gnaphalium) sandwicensium var. molokaiense</i>	Hawaii
Varies by species from 2 - 3	Kopiko (3)	<i>Psychotria spp.</i>	Hawaii
2	Kaulu	<i>Pteralyxia macrocarpa</i>	Hawaii
2	Makou (2)	<i>Ranunculus spp.</i>	Hawaii
2	Ma`oli`oli	<i>Schiedea pubescens</i>	Hawaii
2	No common name (2)	<i>Schiedea spp.</i>	Hawaii
2	`Anunu	<i>Sicyos macrophyllus</i>	Hawaii
2	Popolo	<i>Solanum nelsonii</i>	Hawaii
2	No common name (2)	<i>Stenogyne spp.</i>	Hawaii
2	A`e	<i>Zanthoxylum oahuense</i>	Hawaii

Also in the Notice, the Service reassessed its "warranted-but-precluded" findings for 261 species already identified by the Service as candidate species, that citizens petitioned the Service to list, as provided for in the Endangered Species Act.

In making a warranted-but-precluded finding in response to a petition, the Service determines there is enough biological information to warrant a proposal to list the species, but that development of a proposal is precluded by the need to act on other listing actions of higher priority. A warranted-but-precluded finding is equivalent to a determination that a species is a candidate for listing. The Act requires the Service to conduct an annual review of all warranted-but-precluded petition findings. In its reassessment, the Service found that listing all of these species was still warranted-but-precluded.

The complete Notice and list of candidates and proposed species appear may be obtained via the Services website at <http://pacificislands.fws.gov>. The Service will accept comments on the Candidate Notice of Review at any time.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.